

**Subject: Secretary John A. Scocos - WDVA – Letter to Editor** **12/20/16**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** in Earned and Social Media

Veterans and their loved ones integrate each of us well! Those who have served, suffered and sacrificed impacts each of us in ways incomprehensible. Past, present and future quality of life goes beyond being inspired but empowered!

**John A. Scocos** is retiring January 7, 2017 after a brilliant and stellar career as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. John as Chief Veterans Officer and his department employees have made tremendous impacts in serving the nearly 400,000 Veterans and their loved ones.

John served as a Reserve Officer for 31 years in the U.S. Army. He retired as a full -bird colonel, after serving two tours in Iraq and then the pentagon as the military assistant to the U.S. Secretary of the Dept. of Defense.

John's vast experience only intensified his dedication to serve us best. As the chief clerk and Sergeant of arms for the Wisconsin assembly, he superbly internalized the complex operation of state government. It is no wonder that he has been and will continue to be highly respected and sought after by all facets of state and federal government leaders.

This was not always an easy task, especially when serving under both Republican and Democrat governors. So often it is our detractors that only make us stronger and more effective. "In politics as in life, worst enemies at the next moment, the next issue must be best friends." God Bless them all!

Wisconsin has bragging rights as having the best State Veterans benefit package of all 50 states. So much so, that John and his predecessor Ray Boland were elected Chairman of the National State Veteran Secretaries Association. Their expertise and dedication was shared with other states, so that their Veterans could model after our sterling example.

Governor Scott Walker in consultation with the major Veteran and Auxiliary groups, now makes the decision for his replacement. Eager and pray-fully are we awaiting this decision – so that we may give utmost support and guidance.

It is our vow to continue the proud legacy of the three Veterans Homes, the Veterans Museum – considered one of the best of all 50 states, the three cemeteries, the Veterans Service Representative Claims Office. There are so many more programs, initiatives and daily functions that deserve accolades.

Much is in the works, including six more Veterans 72 bed long-term care facilities, modeled after the Chippewa Veterans Home. This is considered one of the absolute best built and operated long-term care facilities in the USA!

Target communities include Green Bay, Hayward (targeted for Native Americans – space available for others), La Crosse, Madison and Milwaukee. The Chippewa Veterans Home both needs and deserves a second 72 bed facility. All of these 6 Veterans Homes require both public and private coalition with state and federal leadership to be successful. Working together works best when such coalitions work behind the scenes, beneath the radar screen and beyond the horizon!

Many Veterans and their loved ones consider themselves a Living Legacy Tribute – "spiritually transcending the Faithfully Departed!" Check out the Wisconsin Veterans Tribute/Citizen Soldier Monument at Cadott, Wisconsin. There are 97 unique characteristics – in the world!

There you will see a Greek flag, perhaps the only one to fly at a major Veterans Monument, on American soil in the whole USA. It celebrates to a WWII Veteran and Prisoner of War – **John Scocos, Sr.** – the Secretary's Dad.

All of us have heroes in our midst, not just the Veterans. It is the Homefront Heroes who deserve our accolades. They support our military and veterans for a lifetime. During military action, they are the families, farmers, factory workers, public servants, prayer warriors and business owners that determine survival.

**Thank you, John A. Scocos Jr.,** Veterans, loved ones and the Homefront Heroes! We are inspired by and emulate your example.

May you have hunger in the heart, fire in the belly and souls absolutely on fire!

God Bless You!

Dave Zien  
former State Senator  
Million Mile Motorcycle Man

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